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BRUCE GENEALOGY.

In the first paragraph of the Bruce Genealogy, appearing on page 197 of the October, 1903, number of this magazine, it was stated on the authority of Mr. George Morton Williams' recollection of the contents of a paper written by the late Mrs. Pendleton, of Orange county (now unfortunately lost or mislaid), that the Bruce family, of Orange and Halifax counties, was sprung from James Bruce, who is supposed to have settled in the colony early in the eighteenth century. Unquestionable evidence has recently been found that proves that this family was derived from George Bruce, whose name first appears in the Northern Neck records as early as 1668. This new evidence consists of two letters discovered a few months ago among the papers of the late James C. Bruce at Berry Hill, Halifax county; they were addressed in 1855 to Mr. Bruce by Henry Bruce, who emigrated to Kentucky in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Henry Bruce, when a boy of fourteen, had lived at "Soldier's Rest," the home of Charles Bruce, of Orange county, and was familiar with the family's history. In these letters, written when he was seventy-seven years of age, he states that Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," was a son of Charles Bruce, of King George county, who died in 1754. Charles Bruce, of King George county, was, as we shall see, a son of George Bruce, who was a landowner in the Northern Neck in 1668, having been born in 1640. We learn from several sources that Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," always spoke of himself as of the family of Edward Bruce, of Kinloss. This information he could well have obtained from his father, Charles Bruce, of King George county, who in turn could have obtained it from his father George Bruce.

Among the persons who were most actively interested in the affairs of the London Company and the colonization of Virginia, was the Earl of Devonshire, who had married a daughter of Edward Bruce, of Kinloss, the ancestor of the Elgin and Aylesbury families of the English peerage. It is possible that Walter, William and George Bruce, who were the first of the name to appear in Virginia (which they did by the middle of the seventeenth century), were influenced to emigrate by some relationship to the wife of this early friend of the colony. Lady Devonshire did not die until many years after 1650 (see Brown's *Genesis of the United States*). It is a straw of evidence in this connection apart from the traditional statement of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," that the name "Christian," an unusual one for a woman, appears as a family name of the Kinloss Bruces down to the present day, and also of those who settled in the Northern Neck. It was the name of Lady Devonshire, we believe, and was also borne by a granddaughter of the first George Bruce of the Northern Neck. An examination of

the Scottish records would, perhaps, throw a definite light on the origin of the first three Bruces who came out to Virginia.

As soon as the Northern Neck began to be settled, there was a large emigration thither of people who had first taken up land in Isle of Wight and Nansemond counties. Richard Bennett, afterwards Governor, soon acquired extensive tracts there. The Carters and Fauntleroyes, families so long identified with the valley of the Rappahannock, went from Nansemond; so did the Uptons, Smiths and Lawsons, and others equally as well known. There is reason to think that the first three Bruces in the Northern Neck followed the same stream. This was certainly the case with Walter¹ Bruce. It was probably the case with George¹ and William,¹ as all three are found holding land near together in old Rappahannock county. The destruction of all the colonial records of Nansemond county has greatly diminished the sources of information about its first settlers, but we know from the patent books in Richmond (Register's office), that Walter¹ Bruce was a landowner there as early as 1651.

In 1640, a patent was granted to Epaphroditus Lawson, in Tarrascoe Neck, Chuckeytuck parish, Nansemond county. In 1651, a large part of this tract was sold by Lawson to Walter¹ Bruce (see patent to Nicholas² Bruce. 1692, Va. Land Patents, vol. 1689-95). Bruce's purchase began at the mouth of Hole creek, and was bounded by Lawson's bay, &c. In all conveyances, wherever recorded, he speaks of himself as of "Chuckeytuck Parish" (see Surry Rec., 1645-70, Va. St. Lib., p. 361-2 for example). This land was later on in the possession of two of Walter's¹ sons—Abraham² and Nicholas² (see patent to Nicholas already referred to, and Isle of Wight Recs., August 9, 1682). Walter¹ Bruce was a man of education, for he could write his name, an accomplishment to boast of in that illiterate age, which he shared with William¹ and George¹ Bruce. He was a gentleman, for in all the references to him in the records, he is spoken of as "Mister," an indication in those times of social position. He was a man of property, as the records of such counties as old Rappahannock, Surry, Lower Norfolk, Isle of Wight, &c., will show. It will be seen that his business operations were not confined to one part of the colony; he must, therefore, have been more than usually energetic and enterprising.

Between the years 1660 and 1666, Walter¹ Bruce married Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Sayer, a leading citizen of Lower Norfolk county (Records, 1656-66, p. 438), and thus became the stepfather of Francis Sayer, one of the justices of the county in 1671. Francis Sayer married the widow of George Newton, the first of that well known family in Norfolk, and his descendants have been people of influence and position in that part of Virginia down to a recent date. Walter's name appears very often in the Lower Norfolk records in the settlement of Thomas Sayer's estate, and as a purchaser of land. The following en-

try shows that he was a kind stepfather: "Whereas, Mr. Walter Bruce, who married ye widow of Mr. Thomas Sayer, did, out of his tender affection to two of ye children (*i. e.*, Mrs. Sayer's children), added some cattle to ye estate of ye s'd Sayer's children, his wife, in his absence out of ye countrey, put forth Sara Sayer, one of the children, to schoole," &c., and devotes four cows to her education (Lower Norfolk Rec., 1656-1666, p. 438).

Walter¹ Bruce was living in 1668 (Norfolk Recs., 1666-75, p. 111), but died some time previous to 1690. In a deed of that year, by Abraham² Bruce, he states that "he is the eldest son of Walter Bruce, then deceased," and also that his father's will "had been lost by those who had the keeping of it and no record thereof to be found." By law he thus became entitled to his father's lands, but in this deed he confirms to his brother, John,² the 600 acres on Bowman's creek, in Lower Norfolk county, which had been bequeathed John² in his father's will. (Lower Norfolk Rec., 1685-95, p. 123.) Abraham² Bruce did the same thing to his brother Nicholas² (see patent to Nicholas already referred to).

Abraham² Bruce was not a citizen of Lower Norfolk county, though he owned land there (see orders November 15, 1689, Va. Land Pats., 1719-24, p. 81). Like his father, Walter,¹ he lived in Nansemond, doubtless inheriting his father's old home as the eldest son. He married "Ann, sole heiress of Thomas Brown" (Lower Norfolk Rec. Orders, May 15, 1695). John² Bruce, his brother, married a daughter of William Keele (ditto Orders, July 16, 1695). The wife of Nicholas Bruce is unknown. From Walter Bruce is probably descended the family of Bruces residing at Emporia.

What was the connection between Walter¹ Bruce and William¹ and George¹ Bruce, of old Rappahannock county; afterwards, when Rappahannock county was divided, of Richmond county? As early as 1652, when this part of the Northern Neck bore the name of Lancaster county, we find Walter¹ making an assignment of land which he owned there (Lancaster Recs., Order Book, 1652, p. 39). Among other records of interest relating to him, is an assignment witnessed by his stepson, Francis Sayer (Rappah. Rec., Orders March 24, 1663, Va. St. Lib.).

A deposition, recorded in either Lancaster or Westmoreland county, September, 1670 (exact reference mislaid), shows that George¹ was thirty years of age in that year. In 1652, when we find Walter¹ Bruce selling land in Lancaster (later Rappahannock, later Richmond county), George¹ Bruce was only twelve years of age. He was, therefore, much younger than Walter,¹ and might have been his nephew.

As the name "Walter" does not appear among the descendants of George¹ in the next two generations, it is not likely Walter was George¹ Bruce's father.

Some connection between George¹ and William¹ is shown by the

Northern Neck records; at least that they lived not far apart. We find in the old Rappahannock (Richmond county) records (vol. 1671-76, pp. 324-26, Va. St. Lib.), a deed of sale from Henry Reynolds to Mathew Kelly, witnessed by William¹ Bruce and Barnaby Wells—also a power of attorney from same to same, witnessed by George¹ Bruce and Barnaby Wells—also a power of attorney from Reynolds to Wells, witnessed by George¹ Bruce. These three papers were apparently drawn together, as they bear the same date, November 1, 1675, and were all recorded together. The two Bruces were evidently friends and near neighbors of Reynolds.

At this time, George¹ Bruce was thirty-five years of age, as we know from the deposition already quoted. William was older. In 1654, when George¹ was only fourteen, William¹ was of age, for we find him giving a bond to Sir Henry Chicheley (afterwards Deputy-Governor) for 1,031 pounds of tobacco, "to be paid at his (Bruce's) plantation in upper Wyencock." This bond is witnessed by Cuthbert Potter, one of the leading men in the Northern Neck (Rap. Rec., 1668-72, p. 19, Va. St. Lib.) A deed from Richard Bennett (Governor of Virginia in time of Cromwell), dated May 20, 1658, to John Carter, the father of the famous "King" Carter, for 300 acres at Naemcock (Wyencock?), mentions that it "was now or lately in the tenure, &c., of William Bruce." Bennett speaks of himself as of "Nansemond county," in this deed. John Carter was also from Nansemond. The fact that William¹ Bruce was a tenant of Bennett's would seem to indicate that he, like Walter¹ Bruce, was also from Nansemond (Rap. Rec., May 20, 1658). Bennett must have known William Bruce in that county, as there is no evidence of Bennett's visiting the Northern Neck.

William¹ Bruce appears in the old Rappahannock records both as a seller and a purchaser of land. A deed from Henry Creighton, November 3, 1668, mentions that the land conveyed to William adjoined a tract already in William's possession (Rap. Rec., 1668-72, p. 19, Va. St. Lib. See also same, November 2, 1663, September 5, 1660; also Va. Land Pats., 1666-79, p. 292).

William¹ Bruce died previous to December 14, 1683 (see deed from Henry Flint, Rap. Rec., vol. 1680-1688, Va. St. Lib.), nearly forty years before George¹ Bruce. Both describe themselves in the early deeds as of "Sittingbourne parish." The only son of William¹ known positively, is Henry,² who, in his will, speaks of himself as residing where his father had lived before him. In the Northern Neck patents (Register's Office), will be found a patent (vol. 1710-1712, p. 19), in which Henry¹ Bruce, who describes himself as the "son of William," obtains a renewal in one patent of land acquired by his father by patent, October 30, 1669, and lying next to that of Henry Creighton. Henry² speaks of himself as of Richmond county, the county in which George¹ Bruce was now residing at an extreme old age. Henry² Bruce married Mary,

daughter of Andrew Morton, of Northumberland, and in January, 1689-90, sues the executors of Morton's estate for 8,485 pounds of tobacco (Northumberland Rec., 1678-98). A surviving register of North Farnham parish confirms the fact that his wife was named Mary. His will is recorded in Richmond county, June 7, 1727. He makes bequests to sons Andrew,¹ John,² Joseph,³ and Benjamin,⁴ and daughters Mary⁵ and Elizabeth.⁶

George¹ Bruce, the youngest of the three Bruces found among the landowners of the Northern Neck about the middle of the seventeenth century, describes himself at first, like William¹ as "of Sittingbourne parish," but afterwards, when that parish was divided, as "of Farnham." The first reference to George¹ Bruce in the Northern Neck records bears the date of 1668. In that year he bought of William Pierce one hundred and eighty acres of land (Rap. Rec., 1677-82, p. 178, Va. St. Lib.). Pierce had married a daughter of Captain John Upton, of Isle of Wight county. The mother of Mrs. Pierce had obtained a patent to 700 acres in Lancaster (which at that time included old Rappahannock), and, about 1656, married Thomas Lucas, described as "gentleman" (*Va. Mag. of Hist. and Biog.*, III, p. 61).

"Upton" became later on a family name of the Bruces, and it is possible that George¹ Bruce was a relative by blood or marriage of Mrs. Pierce.

In 1671, George¹ Bruce appointed as his attorney, Henry Creighton, who, as we have seen, lived next to William¹ Bruce's plantation, and had also sold him land—another proof that George¹ and William² Bruce were residents of the same neighborhood. Creighton was authorized to represent George¹ Bruce in a suit against Joshua Lawson, a member of the same family as Epaphrictus Lawson, from whom Walter¹ Bruce had purchased an estate in Nansemond in 1651 (Rap. Rec., 1668-72, p. 455, Va. St. Lib.). In 1672, George¹ Bruce's cattle-mark was recorded (Ditto, 1671-76, p. 28, Va. St. Lib.). About ten years later, he was allowed a certain amount of tobacco for carrying an important message to the Governor at Williamsburg (Ditto, 1686-92, orig., p. 352). The following year he complained to the Governor of the justices of old Rappahannock county, because they had imposed "abuses and taxations, to the scandalizing of several persons" (Ditto, May 4, 1692, vol. 1692-94, p. 1).

There are several records to show the names of George¹ Bruce's children. In 1677, we find in the old Rappahannock (Richmond) county records, a deed of gift from Francis Settle to "George and Jane, children of George Bruce" (See vol. 1677-88, p. 150, Va. St. Lib.). These were, probably, the only children born by that year. About ten years later, a second deed of gift, this time from Edward Jeffries, is recorded, which mentions the names of George,² Hensfield,³ Elizabeth,⁴ Charles,⁵

William,² and John² (See vol. 1680-88, p. 408, Va. St. Lib.). Hensfield¹ doubtless received his name out of regard for the Hensfield family, at that time settled in Rappahannock (Richmond) county. Its ancestor was Captain Robert Hensfield, of Salem, Mass. (Ditto, 1680-88, p. 393, Va. St. Lib.). It is possible that George¹ Bruce's wife was the daughter of Captain Hensfield.

George¹ Bruce died in what was then Richmond (old Rappahannock) county, in the year 1715. He describes himself as "stricken in years." Born in 1640, he was then in his seventy-fifth year. In his will he mentions the names of all the children, except Elizabeth,² who were the beneficiaries of the two deeds of gift—George,² Charles,² William,² John,² Hensfield,² and Jane,² who had married Joseph Russell. Elizabeth² was doubtless dead. Having during his lifetime provided for all his sons except John,² evidently his youngest, he leaves them simply one shilling apiece. To his son John,² he made the following bequest: "My plantation whereon I now live, with all the lands, houses, orchards, fences and other appurtenances whatsoever, thereunto belonging," &c. He also leaves to John² all "his personal estate, household goods, cattle, horses, mares, hoggs, debts, creditts, goods and chattells of what nature or kind soever." John² was appointed executor of the will (Rich. County Wills, book No. III, p. 238). George¹ Bruce had, during his long life, accumulated sufficient property to leave a good estate to each of his six children.

The second George¹ Bruce, eldest son of the first George¹ Bruce, died in Westmoreland county, about 1742. In his will he mentions the names of his sons, William,² George,² and Charles,² of his daughters, Keziah,² Hannah,² Jane,² who married Jacob Jordan, and Christian, who married John Young.

John,² apparently the youngest son of the first George¹ Bruce (see will), died before 1741, without issue or will (Rich. Co. Rec., deed bk. vol. IX, p. 661). A part of his estate went to his eldest brother, George² (Ditto Rec., same vol. and page. See, also, George's will, West. Rec., vol. IV, p. 211). George² describes himself (1741) as of "Copley Parish, Westmoreland county." John² Bruce had, in 1735 (see Va. Land Pats. for that year) obtained patents to two tracts of land in Orange county on Dark run and Robinson river.

In 1731, there was recorded in Richmond county a deed from Charles² Bruce to Henry Flint. He there speaks of himself as of "Sittingborne Parish, Richmond County" (see vol. VIII, p. 568). Sixteen years later, we find in the records of King George, the neighboring county, a deed from Joseph Morton to Charles² Bruce, who is there spoken of as of "Brunswick Parish, King George Co." (see King Geo. Co. D. B. for September 4, 1747).

Charles² Bruce, of King George county, died in 1754. His wife is

supposed, on the authority of Mr. Henry Bruce, already quoted, to have been a Miss Pannill. He left three daughters, Elizabeth,³ who married Anthony Ficklin; Margaret,³ who married F. Bronaugh, and Frances,³ who married Girard Banks, Jr. The two sons of Charles³ were Charles³ and William.³ We learn from Mr. Henry Bruce's letters that William³ had four sons, who were named William,⁴ Robert,⁴ Charles,⁴ and George.⁴ William⁴ died during the Revolution, in a British prison, having been a soldier in the war. Robert⁴ removed to Caroline county; here he died in his thirtieth year, leaving a son, Charles,⁵ who settled in Stafford county, where he died in 1848, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, leaving one son and several daughters. Two of his grandsons removed to Richmond, where they entered business.

George⁴ married Mary Stubblefield, and resided in Stafford county, where he died young, leaving two sons, Henry⁵ Bruce, who removed to Kentucky when only sixteen years old; and George⁵ Stubblefield Bruce, who settled first in Georgia, and afterwards in Kentucky. The widow of George⁵ married a second time, and her son Henry⁵ went to live with his great-uncle, Charles⁵ Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," where he remained until his twelfth year. "I was a poor, destitute orphan," he declares in one of the letters quoted, "I was clothed, boarded and sent to school without charge." In January, 1689, Henry⁵ Bruce returned to his grandfather's, William³ Bruce's house, in King George county, but as William³ Bruce died three years afterwards, Henry⁵ decided to emigrate to Kentucky. When twenty-one years old, he returned to Virginia to secure his share of his father's estate, consisting of a negro woman and two children, a boy seventeen years old, and \$360.

Among the facts of interest stated by Mr. Henry⁵ Bruce in his letters to Mr. James C. Bruce, was that Charles⁵ Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," when a very young man went to General Spotswood and obtained from him employment as the manager of one of his numerous plantations, at a salary of one hundred pounds sterling a year, equal to \$333.75 in Virginia currency, and by his industry and foresight succeeded in accumulating a very good estate. Mr Henry⁵ Bruce further states that, when he was a small boy, Captain William Alexander married Miss Casson, an only child and an heiress, whose mother had been a Bruce and a cousin of Charles,³ of "Soldier's Rest." Mrs. Alexander's eldest daughter married Alexander Morson, and another daughter, Thomas Seddon. It was the descendants of this lady, namely, James M. Morson and James A. Seddon, who married the daughters of James⁴ Bruce, of Woodburn, Halifax county, Va. A handsome portrait of Mrs. William Alexander is now in the possession of Judge Beverley R. Wellford, of Richmond, Va., who married one of her descendants. According to Mr. Henry⁵ Bruce, Charles⁵ Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," died in Fredericksburg, while on a visit there, and was there buried. The portrait

now in the possession of Mrs. Richards, of Knoxville, Tenn. (of which Mr. Charles U. Williams, of Richmond, Va., has an excellent copy) was probably a portrait, not of James Bruce, the supposed emigrant, as surmised in a former account of the Bruce family, but either of Charles² Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," or of Charles Bruce,³ of King George county. B.

STONE FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA—SOME PROBLEMS.

Capt. William Stone, who settled on a grant of land in Accomac county, in 1633, had several brothers. But that they had any dealings with others, by the name of Stone, does not appear.

The records of York county, Va., and the land grants in Virginia show that James Stone, a merchant of London, received a grant of 8,000 acres in Charles City county, February 9, 1636, and James Stone, merchant, November 4th, 1647, received a grant of 564 acres in York county. But James Stone, merchant of London, had died before the 10th day of January, 1647, as is shown by an attachment issued by the Governor, Berkeley, on that day for the payment of a debt of James Stone, deceased, to Robert Vaux, amount £2,343, 6 shillings, 10 pence, and another of over £52. Were these persons James Stone one and the same, or father and son—evidently the latter, as another record of judgment in favor of James Stone against Thos. Bremor was granted December, 15, 1647. The debt of James Stone, merchant, of London, England, to Robert Vaux, of Virginia, was made of record September 18, 1646; so that it seems that the London merchant, James Stone, died sometime between September, 1646, and January, 1647, and his son was in Virginia at or about this time or soon after. Now there was a William Stone in York county, Va., whose will is recorded and dated November 25, 1729. The subsequent records show that his descendants moved into Lunenburg county, Va., and some of them are to be found in Tennessee and Texas today. His will named his wife, Sarah Stone, and four children, William, Ashwell, Elizabeth and Mary.

Then again, there was another William Stone in New Kent county, who received, April 15, 1663, a grant of 750 acres, in that county. His wife's name was Mary. They had children, William, John and Mary.

This son, William, born January, 1683, married Elizabeth Dennett, January 20, 1710. The son, John, married Rebecca Amoss, January 25, 1705, and later moved to Talbot county, Md.

William and wife, Elizabeth, both died in January, 1718, leaving a son, William, who later married Francis Taylor. His will was probated in Fluvanna county, in 1777, and is easily accessible.

Still another William Stone left his will in Richmond county, Va.,